

Arkansas Leading in the Faith-at-Work Movement

Excerpted from an article in the MSNBC Faith in America series

Formal allegations of religious discrimination in the workplace have almost doubled in a decade. In fiscal 1992, the federal Equal Employment Opportunity Commission received 1,388 such complaints under Title VII of the Civil Rights Acts of 1964. In fiscal 2004, it received 2,466 complaints.

In Arkansas, a crusade by business leaders, consultants, ministers and scholars is trying to reverse that trend. In the industrial and farming region around Fayetteville, a movement to welcome faith into the workplace has taken flight in the heady atmosphere of Southern evangelicalism and corporate mega-money.

A thriving cottage industry has evolved to help embed Christian principles into corporate structures. *Life at Work*, the much-admired journal of spirituality and leadership, was published in Fayetteville before its recent acquisition. The journal's founders continue to write, teach and run a high-powered business consulting group from the area, called Cornerstone, coaching senior corporate executives in how to run more ethical businesses by integrating faith into the workweek.

On the outskirts of town, WorkMatters, a nondenominational ministry, helps companies absorb Christian principles into their work. A few miles down the road, in Siloam Springs, the Soderquist Center at John Brown University, a private, Christian institution, teaches "the transforming power of ethical leadership."

In the nearby suburbs, one of the nation's most prominent evangelical figures, the Rev. Ronnie W. Floyd, hosts a weekly lunch for business leaders that regularly pulls in heavy hitters like Wayne Huizenga, former CEO of Blockbuster Entertainment; John H. Tyson, CEO of Tyson Foods, the world's largest meat producer; and the late Reggie White, the professional football superstar and minister.

"It is fascinating to look at the fact that the world's largest company — Wal-Mart — is based there in Northwest Arkansas, and Tyson Foods, a Fortune 100 company that's booming and growing, is based there, and J.B. Hunt and other companies," said David W. Miller, executive director of Yale University's Center for Faith and Culture.

"There are certain geographies that gain a critical mass, and exciting things happen in the business community, [like] Silicon Valley. ... Northwest Arkansas seems to have become a booming, creative, interesting place for businesses, which means they attract people from all over the country.

"Combine that with a wonderful heartland America sort of feel, where people are not embarrassed by who they are or what they believe, and that creates an environment where it would be a fertile soil for the faith-at-work movement to take root and blossom."

Floyd pointed to Wal-Mart, in nearby Bentonville; Tyson, the world's largest meat company; and J.B. Hunt, a transportation giant, and noted that all three were built by a "founder or founding team that had close connections to faith and Christianity."

The concentration of faith and money here has drawn the attention of Promise Keepers, the charismatic men's ministry, which has aligned itself with the faith-at-work movement since re-emerging from financial difficulties. It says it expects to draw tens of thousands of men to its conference in June at the football stadium at the University of Arkansas downtown, one of the first it has ever held outside a major metropolitan area.

The faith-at-work movement has emerged for a lot of reasons, but basically it was because when you go to work, you take your faith and values with you. In an NBC News poll released recently, 58 percent of respondents said their religious beliefs played some role in the decisions they made at work, and 65 percent said those beliefs influenced how they interacted with co-workers.

"Twenty or 30 years ago, there was a sense, particularly in the Northeast, that there were certain topics that just weren't suitable for the workplace: politics, sex and religion. Now we see that people are able to talk about sex very freely, and politics everybody talks about now," said Miller, of Yale. "It seems like it's almost a logical extension [for] faith. ...

"Many people started to say, 'Wait a minute — that's a central or constituent part of who I am, and for me to be in denial about that just doesn't make sense.' For me to leave my soul in the parking lot when I walk in the office isn't a healthy thing to do."



Kingdom Briefs

Confronting the Judicial War on Faith

Experts on judicial tyranny and the attack on religious faith will gather in Washington, D.C., on April 7-8 to discuss how people of faith can fight back against judicial activism. The conference, titled *Confronting the Judicial War on Faith*, will feature such leaders as Cong. Tom DeLay; Sen. Sam Brownback; Phyllis Schlafly; former Alabama Chief Justice Roy Moore; and more. The conference will focus on the judicial assault on religion, the courts' support of abortion on demand, and mobilizing for action. For further information, access the StopActivistJudges.org web site. (Source: **Traditional Values Coalition**)

Federal Court Upholds Ten Commandments Display

A federal appeals court has upheld a display of the Ten Commandments as part of a historical exhibit in an Indiana government building. The Seventh U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals has ruled that officials in Elkhart, Indiana, did not violate the establishment clause of the Constitution of the United States by displaying the biblical laws in the County Administration Building in Elkhart County. That display also includes nine historical documents and symbols, along with the flags of the United States and the state of Indiana. Mat Staver, president of **Liberty Counsel**, the legal group that represented the county in the case, says the ruling is significant because the display is identical to the Ten Commandments display at the center of a case that is now under consideration in the U.S. Supreme Court. (Source: **Agape Press**)

Rosa Parks Exploited for Homosexual Agenda, TVC Says

The Traditional Values Coalition reports that the Southern Poverty Law Center is exploiting **Rosa Parks** by using the civil rights heroine to establish a National Campaign for Tolerance. The goal is to enlist five million activists to participate in so-called tolerance initiatives in their local communities. One of the purposes of the campaign is to get individuals to sign a pledge that says, in part, "I pledge to have respect for people whose abilities, beliefs, culture, race, *sexual identity* or other characteristics are different from my own." Morris Dees, director and founder of the Southern Poverty Law Center, which is based in Montgomery, Alabama, is a supporter of gay rights. TVC reports that Dees also "brags" on his web site about suing Chief Justice Roy Moore over the judge's refusal to remove the Ten Commandments from an Alabama state office building. (Source: **Traditional Values Coalition**)

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THE PERFECT FUNDRAISER! GREAT FOR ANY SCHOOL OR ORGANIZATION!

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Whole Family Comes to Christ in Iran

By REZA SAFA

One of the calls from Iran that I took recently was from a woman in a city called Kerman. She wanted her life and the life of her family to be blessed. When I asked her about her belief in Jesus, she boldly claimed that she believed in Him.

"Do you believe that He is the Son of God?" I asked her.

Her response was "sure," and positive.

"You're no longer a Muslim!" I said.

"No, no longer, ever since I have been watching your program. I believe in Jesus now," she said very confidently.

Still making sure that we were on the same page, I asked her to bow her knees and pray the prayer of salvation with me. She obeyed instantly. Then I asked her if there were other people in her family who also wanted to ask Jesus into their life. She said her whole family wanted the same – the brother, the husband, the children, everyone. I don't know how many people accepted the Lord with her, but I could hear the noise of a big group of people in the background repeating everything I asked her to repeat. To God be the glory! Whole families coming to Christ has been a common occurrence. All through just one phone call. Hallelujah!

Sometimes I wonder if people really understand what is happening in Iran. I guess the best way to describe it is through what the scripture says in Luke 5: 6-7 (KJV).

"And when they had this done, they inclosed a great multitude of fishes: and their net brake. And they beckoned unto their partners, which were in the other ship, that they should come and help them. And they came, and filled both the ships, so that they began to sink."

That is what we're seeing taking place in Iran. Thank you for helping us preserve as much of this great catch as possible. May the Lord continue to bless you for His harvest!

Our new phone system has eliminated much of the stress we experienced on a daily basis before, as the calls from Iran and around the world would ring off the hook in each of our offices. Now, all the Farsi calls are directed to two different offices and people can leave their numbers for us to call back. Praise the Lord!

We will soon establish our first Iranian Bible school in Turkey. This school, sponsored by Pastor Mark Brazee's Ministry, is a three-week intensive training for the new believers. Pastor Mark will be there, teaching the students for three days. Other teachers are Pastor Tim Killstrom from France, Rev. Larry Mills from Turkey, Missionaries Larry and Angela Keaton, and myself. Please keep this school in your prayers. It has been a daunting task to coordinate with the Iranians who are coming out of Iran. We have already had several cancellations due to some security reasons and other difficulties. The Islamic regime in Iran has made life very difficult for millions upon millions in that land.

In Holland we will be conducting an evangelistic/healing crusade among the Iranians and also training people for a possible Nejat call-center.

Reza Safa is an Iranian-born American who is taking the Gospel to his homeland through his Nejat (Salvation) Project, a historic outreach to win souls in the Muslim world. He is also founder and president of The Harvesters World Outreach in Tulsa, Oklahoma. He can be reached through his website addresses at www.nejattv.org and www.rezasafa.com. Mr. Safa has continually warned Americans of the attempt by some to infuse our public schools with Islamic propaganda.

Kingdom Briefs

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City Allows Street Preachers to Spread Gospel

Street preachers are free to spread the gospel in downtown Monroe, Michigan, following a settlement of their federal lawsuit against the city. Monroe officials say they will not prosecute members of the World Wide Street Preachers' Fellowship under the city's noise ordinance or for lack of a parade permit. The city also will pay attorney fees and costs. The case stemmed from an incident last year in which a local pastor and several members of his Anabaptist church were preaching, and then were ticketed after citizens complained to police. The pastor says they were obeying Jesus' command to "Go into all the world and preach the gospel to the whole creation." (Source: **Agape Press**)

Comedian Says Christians Have Neurological Disorder

Bill Maher, the irreverent former host of the late-night talk show *Politically Incorrect*, said Christians and other religious people have a neurological disorder that stops them from thinking, WorldNet Daily reported. Maher made the remarks during his February 17 appearance on *Scarborough Country*. The host of HBO's *Real Time With Bill Maher* said he believed the nation is "unenlightened" because of religion. "When you look at belief in such things as do you go to heaven, is there a devil, we have more in common with [Muslim nations] Turkey and Iran and Syria than we do with European nations and Canada and nations that, yes, I would consider more enlightened than us." Maher said. (Source: **Charisma**)

TVC Leader Helps Push Anti-Gay Marriage Bill

The Rev. Louis P. Sheldon, chairman and founder of the Traditional Values Coalition, was set to join California State Senator Roy Ashburn in support of Senate Constitutional Amendment. Among other things, the amendment states: "The rights, responsibilities, benefits, and obligations of a marriage shall only be granted, bestowed, and conferred upon a man and a woman joined in a valid marriage, and may not be conferred upon any other union or partnership." TVC sponsored the amendment, along with its twin Assembly companion, Assembly Constitutional Amendment 3, in December. SCA 1 and ACA 3 would prevent homosexual civil unions or "domestic partnership" programs such as California law currently allows. (Source: **Traditional Values Coalition**)

Christians Denied Permit for National Day of Prayer

Officials in Troy, Mich., have denied Christians a permit to meet for the National Day of Prayer observances. For the past ten years, Christians in Troy have joined together for this event, which takes place on the first Thursday in May. This year, however, the celebration was challenged by the local Jewish, Muslim, and Indian communities. Prayer coordinator Lori Wagner said she is planning to contact the Thomas More Law Center and may sue the city for discriminatory treatment. (Source: **Traditional Values Coalition**)

Dallas-Area Churches to Pray, Work, Together

The pastors of two megachurches – one mostly black, the other mostly white – say they will lead Dallas-area Christians in a day of prayer, followed by ninety days of working together. Bishop T.D. Jakes of the Potter's House and Rev. Jack Graham of Prestonwood Baptist Church say the May 15 prayer meeting at Reunion Arena is expected to draw 20,000 Christians. It is to be followed by three months of "compassion in action," as thousands of volunteers build homes, clean up trash, paint schools and otherwise improve conditions on the city's south side. Dallas is one of seventy-five U.S. cities taking part in the Global Day of Prayer. Worldwide, organizers expect 200 million people to fill arenas and stadiums in 150 countries. Jakes' and Graham's churches have a combined membership of more than 50,000. (Source: **Agape Press**)

On the Trail of Good News

Hey, we're sniffing around for news and other uplifting information that might appeal to our national audience. If you know of a unique Christian business, ministry or personality, or of something happening on the news front, give us a heads-up. You might want to send a clipping from your local newspaper or invite us to track down a story from the details you provide. Remember, all our stories are Christ-based and nationally oriented, though they may cut across entertainment, business, lifestyle, political or other lines. E-mail us at newsletter@tkog.biz or mail us your clippings at The Kingdom of God, P.O. Box 1147, Claremont, CA 91711.

TBN's Jan Crouch: Just What the Doctor Ordered for Haiti

Jan Crouch, co-founder with her husband, Paul, of the Trinity Broadcasting Network, the largest Christian Network in the world, has been quietly building a hospital in Haiti.

She told Charisma magazine: "It's a personal thing the Lord just keeps blessing me to do."

"That 'personal thing' is the humanitarian work she funds through her nonprofit foundation, Smile of a Child (SOAC)," reports Charisma in its April issue. Crouch has been aiding Haiti for more than 20 years.

The \$2 million hospital project is being built in cooperation with Bishop Joel R. Jeune of Grace International Inc. Charisma reports that the medical facility will be the most sophisticated in the country.

During a January visit to the troubled Caribbean nation, Crouch presented Interim Prime Minister Gerard Latortue with the keys to six fire trucks and three ambulances – "more gifts 'from Jesus and the Christians of America,'" she told the prime minister. Joseph Montopoli, assistant fire chief for the City of Pembroke Pines Fire Rescue in South Florida, helped arrange the donation of two of the vehicles. Montopoli was watching TBN one night when Latortue told Crouch that Haiti needed ambulances and fire trucks. Montopoli got his station to donate two vehicles. SOAC purchased six decommissioned fire trucks for roughly \$35,000. Montopoli will also help Haiti develop its fire department and teach workers how to operate the vehicles, Charisma says.

"Ministers working in Haiti see the construction of the hospital and the donation of the trucks as one small sign that God is turning things around in a nation long plagued by violence, poverty and government corruption," the magazine reports. As for the hospital, the 60,000-square-foot structure is expected to be complete this summer and will house 85 beds and two operating rooms.

Protestors Turn Violent at Hinn Crusade in Bangalore, India

Evangelist Benny Hinn had every right to be proud of his January Festival of Blessings crusade in India. It was his largest to date – in fact, the largest in recorded history. More than 7 million people attended, and thousands reported miracle healings.

The event, held at the Jakkur Airport Grounds in Bangalore, had been in the planning stages immediately following a similar festival almost a year earlier in Mumbai, India. Reportedly, 4.8 million attended those three massive services in February 2004.

But the Bangalore festival would prove to be distinctly different, and very dangerous. Members of the Bharatiya Party (BJP), angered by allegations that Hinn was coming to convert Hindus, called for his visa to be revoked, reports the April issue of Charisma magazine. "Dissidents threw rocks at vehicles transporting nationals to the event. Others burned, images of Hinn in effigy, demanding that the California-based minister 'go back, go back, go back.'"

A reported 300 buses were damaged during the three-day meeting, and some people were struck by rocks thrown by demonstrators.

"I never thought I would face such a thing," Hinn told Charisma. "It was frightening. People started to throw rocks, slash tires, burn cars. I think the scariest part was seeing me burned in effigy."

Hinn was not permitted to give an altar call because of the nation's anticonversion law, but "the salvation message was clearly presented in both English and Hindi," according to the Hinn ministry. "Millions joined together, lifting their hands, praying the prayer of salvation, and giving their hearts to our wonderful Lord Jesus Christ! Only eternity will reveal what was accomplished for Him, and to Jesus belongs all the glory!"

Hinn told a crowd of about 15,000 at a March healing service at the Long Beach (California) Arena that he had already made plans to return to India in 2006.

Networks Set to Broadcast Condom Ads in Prime Time

By DONALD E. WILDMON
Chairman, American Family Association

CBS and ABC have said they are seriously considering airing condom ads during prime time and daytime television. NBC and Fox and other networks will follow their lead.

I hope this concerns you as much as it does me. The condom companies say their purpose in airing their ads is to help stop the spread of disease. So, why do their ads promote products like "Warm Sensations" and "Twisted Pleasure"?

Don't be fooled by their double-speak. If the networks decide to break their self-imposed policy of not airing condom ads, we'll soon have "Trojan Man" ads bombarding our children at every turn.

You can expect that these ads will be aired repeatedly, especially during sporting events.

The networks and condom companies don't really care about what they advertise when our children are watching television. They want to make money! That's why one company president said, "...we could quadruple this business." Does that sound like a company that has our children's best interest in mind?

Do you want the networks to start airing condom ads all hours of the day? Once condom companies get their foot in the door, it's only a matter of time before the ads become more and more graphic.

If you desire to send an email message to the six major networks that use public-owned airwaves, you may do so. Let them know you want them to reject any offers to air condom ads on network television.



[Click Here To Send Your Letter To The Networks!](#)

Fact Finder: http://www.msnbc.msn.com		
	1990	2001
Adult U.S. population	175,440	207,980
Total Christian	151,496	159,506
Catholic	46,004	50,873
Baptist	33,960	33,890
Protestant*	17,214	4,647
Methodist/Wesleyan	14,174	14,150
Lutheran	9,110	9,580
Presbyterian	4,985	5,596
Pentecostal	3,191	4,407
Episcopalian	3,042	3,451
Mormon	2,487	2,787
Jehovah's Witnesses	1,381	1,331

* No denomination specified.
Source: U.S. Census Bureau 2001 data based on a random telephone survey of 50,281 American residential households in the continental United States.